

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 05665 291126Z

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SUBJECT: NIN ARTICLE ON BALKAN COOPERATION

1. SUMMARY. NIN 10/26 HAS PUBLISHED ARTICLE BY
M. DRASKIC ENTITLED "BALKAN PERSPECTIVES" CONTAINING
UNOFFICIAL, BUT COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF YUGOSLAV
VIEWS ON BALKAN CONFERENCE AND POSSIBILITIES
FOR BALKAN COOPERATION. DRASKIC ARTICLE BETRAYS A CERTAIN
OPTIMISM ABOUT FUTURE COURSE OF EVENTS IN BALKAN REGION, BUT
ASSERTS THAT MANY PRECONDITIONS WILL AVE TO BE
MET BEFORE TRUE COOPERATION CAN DEVELOP. DRASKIC'S
PRIMARY TARGET IS BY IMPLICATION BULGARIA, AND BEHIND
BULGARIA THE SOVIET UNION. END SUMMARY.

2. DRASKIC ARGUES THAT PRESENT-DAY BALKANS IS BEING
TRANSFORMED FROM 19TH CENTURY "POWDER KEG". BALKANS
REPRESENTS EUROPE IN MINIATURE WITH TWO WARSAW PACT
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PAGE 02 BELGRA 05665 291126Z

ALLIES, TWO NATO COUNTRIES, ONE NON-ALIGNED POWER

AND ALBANIA ("A SPECIAL PHENOMENON"). THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY BALKANS HAS BEEN POLITICALLY DIVIDED, AND IN THE PAST SUCH DIVISIONS HAVE LED TO INSTABILITY AND MUTUAL DISTRUSTS. NON-BALKAN POWERS HAVE INCREASED THIS INSTABILITY BY FOLLOWING THEIR OWN "PLANS FOR CONQUEST AND HEGEMONY", DRASKIC SAYS. TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF "THE BITTER EXPERIENCE OF THE PAST" BALKAN COOPERATION IS A VITAL NECESSITY. THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND SCIENTIFIC BENEFITS FLOWING FROM SUCH COOPERATION WOULD BE OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE.

3. BUT, DRASKIC OBSERVES, THERE ARE THREE PRECONDITION FOR SUCCESSFUL BALKAN COOPERATION: (1) EACH NATION MUST REPRESENT ITS OWN INTERESTS, NOT THOSE OF NON-BALKAN STATES; (2) AN END MUST BE PUT TO "AUARRELS AND UNREALISTIC ASPIRATION", LEGACIES OF THE PAST WHICH HAVE BEEN USED BY OUTSIDE POWERS TO FORWARD THEIR OWN AIMS; (3) NATIONAL MINORITIES MUST BE FULLY RECOGNIZED, OR ELSE THEY WILL BECOME SOURCES OF INSTABILITY TO THOSE REGIMES WHO STILL DENY THEM THEIR RIGHTS.

4. CSCE AND DETENTE IN EUROPE HAVE OPENED NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR BALKAN COOPERATION, DRASKIC WRITES, AND THE ATHENS-SUGGESTED BALKAN CONFERENCE HAS ATTRACTED SPECIAL ATTENTION BECAUSE OF THIS. BUT, SINCE IT IS THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF THIS TYPE, IT SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO YIELD MAJOR RESULTS. IF ALL GOES WELL, DRASKIC CONCLUDES, CONFERENCE WILL BE BOUND TO HAVE POSITIVE EFFECT ON THE COURSE OF FUTURE EVENTS, BUT IT WILL ONLY HAVE THIS EFFECT IF EACH PARTICIPANT TREATS EVERY OTHER EQUALLY, WITHOUT REGARD TO SIZE AND POWER.

5. COMMENT: DRASKIC'S PRECONDITIONS FOR BALKAN COOPERATION ARE AIMED PRIMARILY AT BULGARIA AND THE SOVIET UNION. YUGOSLAVIA ACCUSES BULGARIA OF NOT REPRESENTING ITS OWN INTERESTS, BUT THOSE OF THE USSR. YUGOSLAVS ALSO FEAR BULGARIA'S "UNREALISTIC ASPIRATION" IN MACEDONIA, AND CONDEMN BULGARIA'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BELGRA 05665 291126Z

NON-RECOGNITION OF ITS MACEDONIAN MINORITY. DRASKIC'S REFERENCE TO OUTSIDE POWERS "PLANS FOR CONQUEST AND HEGEMONY" IS OBVIOUS CATCHWORD REFERENCE TO USSR AND IMPLIES THAT FOR DRASKIC AT LEAST, AND POSSIBLY FOR YUGOSLAVIA TOO, PRIME OBJECTIVE OF ANY BALKAN COOPERATION SCHEME WOULD BE TO LIMIT BULGARIAN AND SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE REGION. SILBERMAN

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